

**BBA, TIRANA**

# ***VOLUNTEERING IN ALBANIA***

**Infopack**



**EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY  
CORPS**

**BEYOND BARRIERS**  
—We believe in what we do—

# BEYOND BARRIERS ASSOCIATION (BBA)

Beyond Barriers Association was created in June 2004 in Tirana, Albania with the initiative of a group of youngsters with and without disability. BBA is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that defends the rights and the interests of the young people. The mission of BBA is to empower young people in Albania by promoting active participation, inclusion, equal chances and better quality of life. Through civic education and qualitative youth work for young people and local communities, BBA supports the foundations of building a better society for the present and the future generations. Our moto is:

**“We believe in what we do!”**

BBA staff is organizing a variety of activities in local, national, regional and European level such as Advocacy and Youth Policy Intervention, research and publications, technical assistance as the Contact point of SALTO SEE for E+ Youth and ESC in Albania, Capacity building activities, Community Development activities, Networking, Art and Creativity, Culture and Sport activities etc.

The focus of the association’s work remains on young people with fewer opportunities, with the aim to offer them a chance for empowerment and to be active citizens of the community where they live. Target groups: youngster with social disadvantages, youngsters with disabilities, youngsters from Roma communities, LGBT+ community and other young people in Albania. Special focus is on special target group which are young people with disabilities (all type of disabilities).



# Our History with ESC

**Volunteering and solidarity with youngsters in need is one of the main pillars of BBA work since its creation and volunteers themselves either local or international have been a great asset for development of the organization. BBA was involved in the previous EVS program, since 2006 and since then we have hosted in Albania around 200 volunteers from European countries in short and long-term projects.**

**Also, we have sent more than 150 young people from Albania in diverse projects in European organizations being one of the first pioneer of European volunteering in Albania.**

**Throughout participation in the ESC program, BBA offered to hundreds of youngsters an opportunity for development in personal, social and professional level.**





**At the office of Beyond Barriers you will usually find around Ana Mullanji (Executive Director), Silvia Dervishi (Programme Manager and Supervisor of ESC), Ina Topi (Financial Manager), Kristjana Bashaj (Project Coordinator), Joana Rista (Project Coordinator), Alesia Dodaj (part-time Project Coordinator), Rafaela Mborja (ESC Coordinator), and Roel Rrapi (Coordinator of Volunteers). For everything formal regarding your ESC project you need to direct to Silvia or Rafaela.**

**For technical issues upon arrival or anything connected with accommodation, Rafaela will be available to help you. Reimbursement of cost and allowances (food money and pocket money) will be given by Ina upon receiving your signature on proper documents. For info regarding your daily tasks and activities, Roel will be there for you :)**

**BBA has also many local volunteers, and some of the most active ones you will meet during these months, such as: Olta (F), Natalia (F), Livia (F), Andi(M), Luka (M), Matias (M), Enisi (M), etc. They will also be your mentors around Tirana during the day or for night gatherings, whenever you will need their assistance.**

**You will get to know Beyond Barriers staff and local volunteers during the first week and the welcoming events :)**

**People you will  
work with at BBA**



# What activities will you do?

The philosophy of our work is that the volunteer becomes part of the team and as such, they should be integrated in most (if not all) of the projects that the team is currently working with, even if this means assisting with small tasks or taking up a more important role (if they would like to get out of their comfort zone).

Nevertheless, the main activities that the volunteers will perform are:





DISCOVER  
**FRANCE'S**  
- TOP CITIES FOR  
IMMERSIVE  
**FRENCH**  
**LANGUAGE**  
**LEARNING**

**KUB**  
**FRANCE**  
**TIRANA**

## PROGRAM 1:

# “Bonjour” to French Culture!

**Opportunities with BBA, 4 places, for long-term mobility (6-8 months). Volunteers will work 5 hours/day, serving 3 days/week at the KubFrance Project and 2 days/week at a local French Language Center. Their tasks include event organization, teaching French language and culture using non formal education methods, creating social media content, and contributing to digitalization and innovation activities for youth.**

**Additionally, they will spend time in the office preparing action plans and materials for their activities, with work divided among them based on fit. They will receive training and assistance before and throughout their service. Each month, they will develop an action plan outlining their tasks and goals, updating it as needed. Besides of the tasks described below, the BBA team will support the volunteers' ideas and initiatives when possible.**



## At KubFrance, their responsibilities will include:

- Assisting the staff in event organization
- Co-facilitating VR technology workshops with youngsters
- Co-designing and co-facilitating social events for youth
- Promoting the French culture through intercultural events
- Carrying out a vox-pop project, communicating with people on the street about various topics that concern young people as well as discuss with them about the opportunities of the EU for youth (sharing info about the ESC and Erasmus programs, discussing their benefits for youngsters involved)
- Creating social media content for the section "the life of a volunteer" in order to motivate young people to get involved in the ESC program

## At the local French Center, they will:

- Create and deliver lessons on French language and culture for young children and teenagers utilizing non-formal education methods. The lessons will mostly aim at improving communication and speaking practice through games and dialogues, as well as practical examples related to the French culture and lifestyle.
- Additionally, they will produce social media content to showcase their work, delivering at least one post per week.

FRANCE  
bonjour

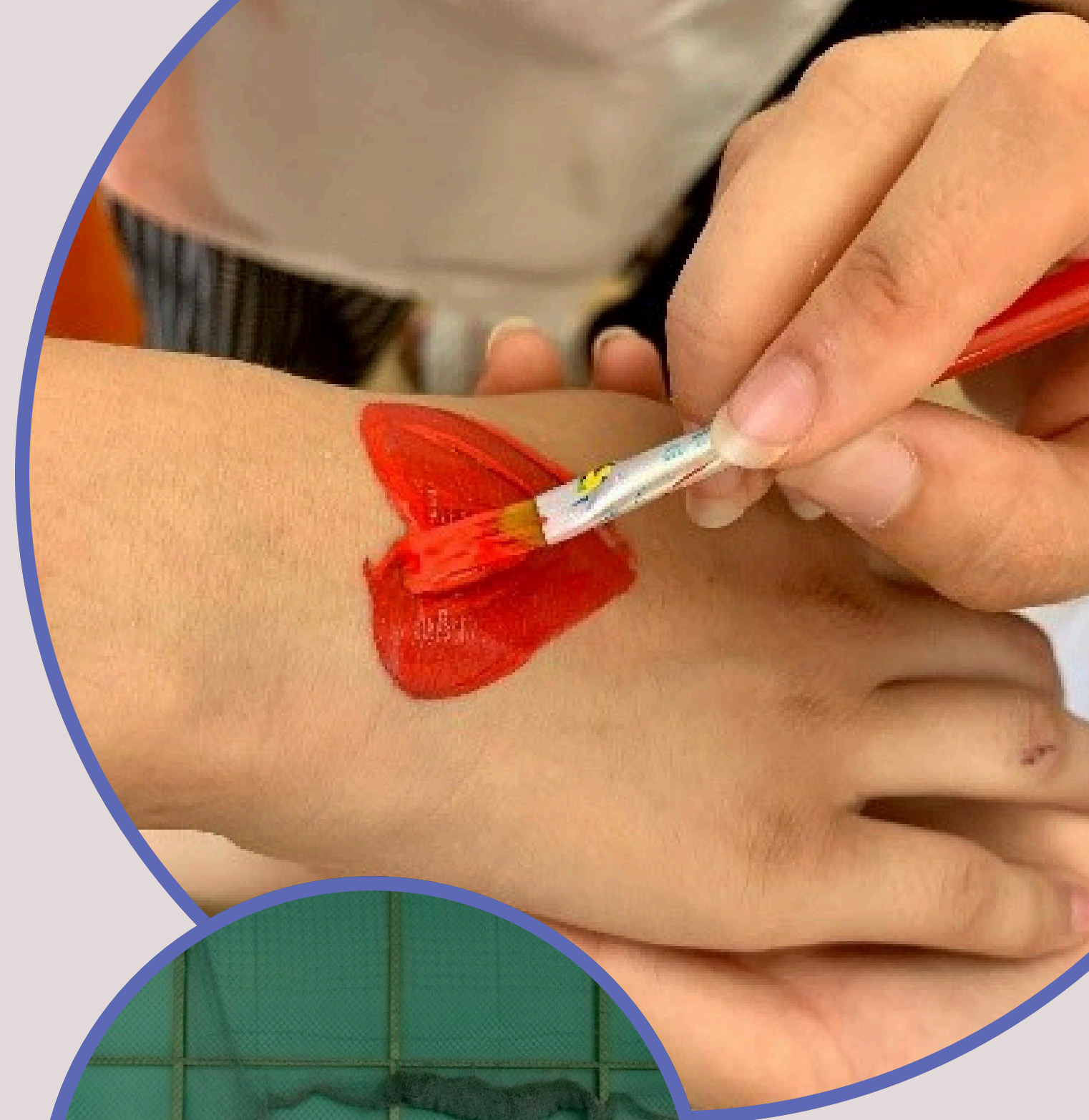


## PROGRAM 2:

### Short-term Volunteering for Inclusion&Diversity

**This program offers 3 volunteers a one or two-month opportunity to work with individuals with intellectual disabilities, including Down syndrome and autism, at both a social center and a special school, while being supported by specialized professionals.**

**Volunteers will dedicate two days per week to working at an intellectual disability social center, engaging in social animation activities with around 20 individuals of varying ages with Down syndrome, autism, and learning difficulties. Additionally, two days a week will be spent at “Luigj Gurakuqi” Special School for children and youngsters with intellectual disability, where volunteers will lead adapted activities with small groups of children and youth.**



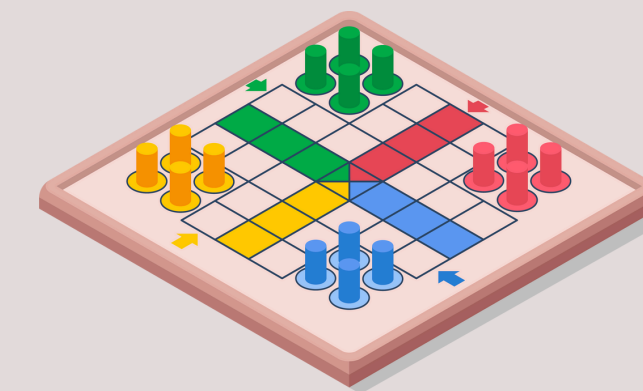


## Social animation activities in this context include:

- Simple sports activities aimed at improving locomotor skills and group work
- Music therapy through karaoke and dancing activities
- Art therapy & simple DIY with various sensorial materials, colors and shapes
- Numerical activities aimed at developing logic and mathematical skills
- Board games and puzzles
- Outdoor team games in small groups

Volunteers will always be supported by specialized professionals experienced with the target group and will not bear full responsibility for the group on their own. They will receive training and assistance before and throughout their service. Volunteers will also have one office day per week to plan their activities and prepare materials. Each month, they will develop an action plan outlining their tasks and goals, updating it as needed.

This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to make a real difference in the lives of those with intellectual disabilities, gain valuable experience in social inclusion, and contribute to meaningful projects that promote diversity. Besides of the tasks described below, the BBA team will support the volunteers' ideas and initiatives when possible.



## PROGRAM 3:

# Supporting activities at BBA (short-term)

The “Supporting Activities at BBA” program offers a one or two-month opportunity for 3 volunteers to contribute to projects like the Educative Greenhouse, Mobile Youth Center, Marketing Team, and International Days, while gaining hands-on experience in youth work, green skills, digitalization&innovation, activity facilitation, social media management, and event organization.

Volunteers will engage in diverse tasks throughout the week, providing a hands-on experience across different areas.





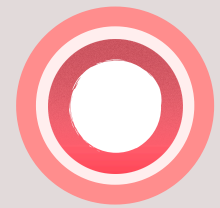
- **At the Greenhouse**, they will help with watering, planting, harvesting, maintaining the educative space, and leading green skills workshops for students. They will create videos and collages to showcase their work.
- **In the Mobile Youth Center**, volunteers will design and implement workshops and local events on digitalization, innovation, human rights education, and promotion of the ESC and Erasmus+ programs with children and youth.
- **With the Marketing team**, they will assist in developing social media content to promote our projects and disseminate results, by using short videos, photo collages, testimonials, as well as online interactive tools.
- Additionally, volunteers will organize and lead activities to celebrate International Days, such as International Youth Day, Peace Day, Volunteering Day, Erasmus Days etc. This is an exciting opportunity for young people to gain practical experience in event organization and facilitation, develop creative ideas, socialize with local youngsters and make a real impact in various community-focused projects.

The volunteers will spend time **in the office** preparing action plans and materials for their activities, with work divided among them based on fit. They will receive training and assistance before and throughout their service. Each month, they will develop an action plan outlining their tasks and goals, updating it as needed. Besides of the tasks described above, the BBA team will support the volunteers' ideas and initiatives when possible.

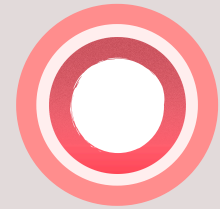
Applicants for this program should be creative, proactive, and interested in youth work, digital skills, marketing, social media, event organization and community engagement.



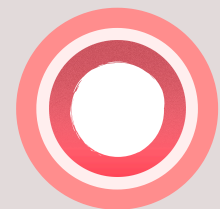
# Things You Need



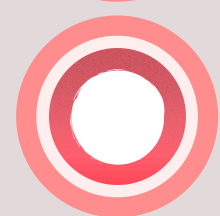
**Bring your own laptop if you own one**



**Take all medicine you need with you**



**Personal items  
(Reusable water bottle, hair dryer, personal towel, slippers)**



**A sim card for your phone will be provided by our team upon your arrival**

**GOOD MOOD**  
  
**POSITIVE ATTITUDE**  
  
**ENTHUSIASM**

## ① LOCATION

You will live and work in Tirana, the heart and capital of Albania, which like all other European metropolises has never-ending movement and energy.



## ② ROOMS

Rooms for 2 people (same sex rooms can be arranged);  
Unlimited wifi



## ③ TIRANA

Tirana is the capital of Albania and also the main economic, social and cultural center of the country. With its clubs, bars, cafes, and taverns, the city is worth discovering by day and night. The hospitality of Albanians is something that will mark your journey not only in Tirana but also all over the country :)



# WHERE WILL YOU LIVE?

## ACCOMMODATION

## CITY CENTER ④

Our apartment is situated near BBA office, in the area called Don Bosko in Tirana, located approximately 20 min by foot from the main square "Sheshi Skenderbe".



## APARTMENT ⑤

You will be living in one apartment equipped with all the necessary living conditions. We recommend that you bring one more personal towel for yourself :D.



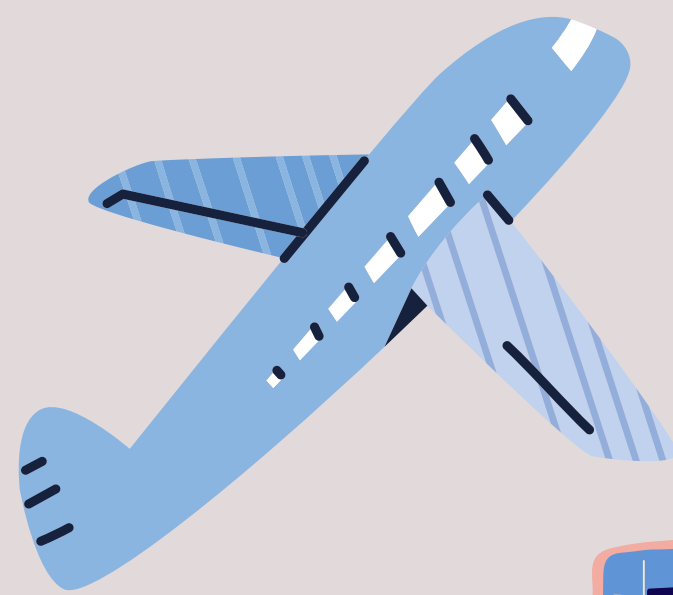
## AREA ⑥

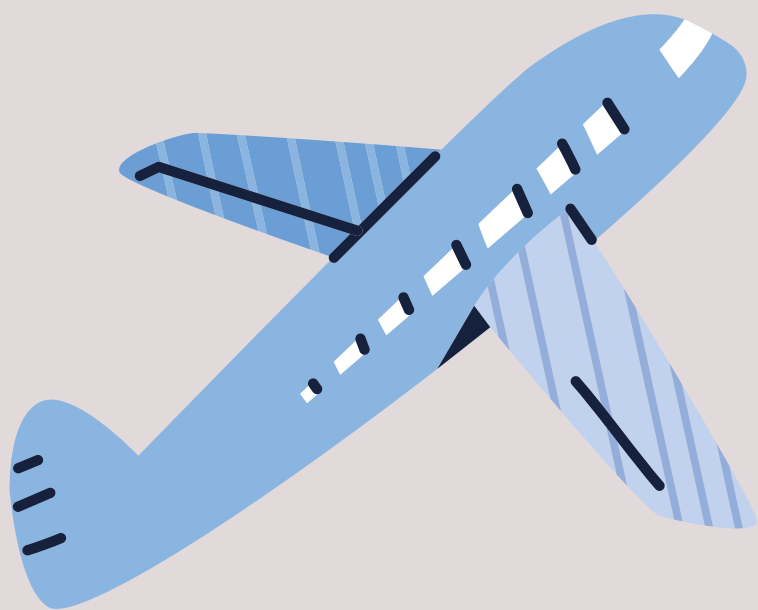
The area is very lively, so you will be able to find many markets, shops, bars, banks, exchange offices in the neighborhood.





# Travel Arrangements: Transportation





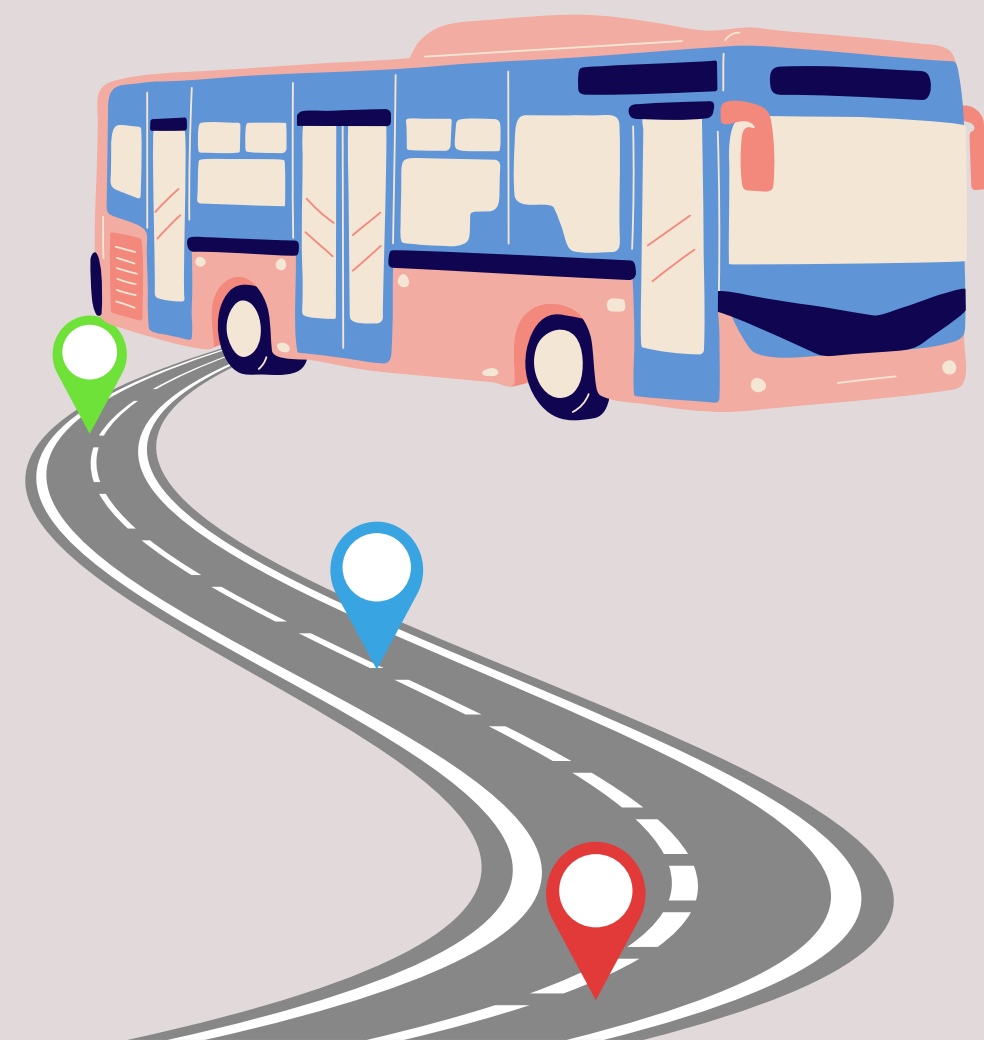
## **TRANSFER FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE APARTMENT**

**Transportation services from the airport to the apartment are available. We can provide you with the contact information of an electric taxi company. You have the option to book your taxi either via WhatsApp or by directly calling them, and subsequently waiting at the airport for their arrival to pick you up (around 20 minutes). Furthermore, we will share with you the precise location of the apartment, enabling you to provide this information to the taxi driver. Upon your arrival at the apartment, representatives from our organization will be present to assist you.**

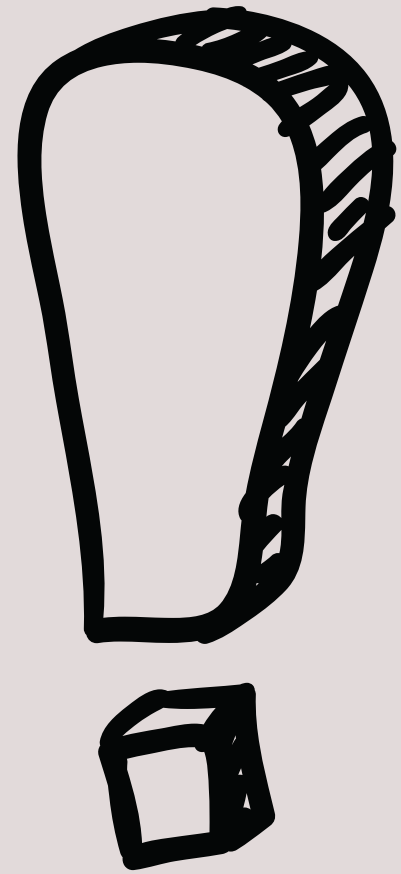
**For any emergency case, send an SMS to Rafaela on this number +355 67 64 51 057 :)**

## **LOCAL TRANSPORT**

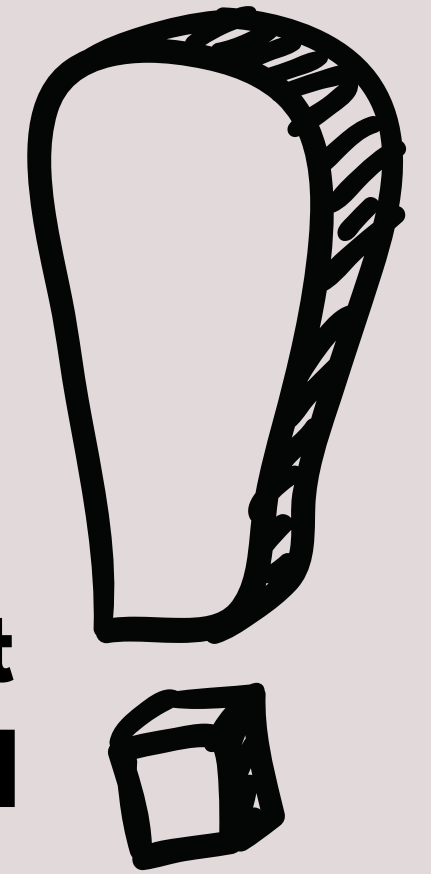
**The staff will provide a monthly pass for volunteers so they can use public transport (bus lines). The public service in the city of Tirana is reliable and widespread. Tirana is a very busy city, and has more than 20 bus lines. All bus stations are located around Tirana Center, easy to spot and reach. You can find public bus from 6 AM-11 PM. It takes from 3-10 minutes to wait in bus stops for the next bus.**







# Allowances



**You will get the allowance for food and pocket money every two weeks, quantified on the basis of the amount necessary to live in dignity in our country. You will need to sign a form for receiving the money. The way you spend it it's up to you and we do not need any bills for your own expenses.**

**All ESC Volunteers are eligible to receive a Youthpass certificate at the end of their mobility :)**



# Currency

**1 Euro = 98,70 Lek**

**Albanian currency is called LEKË (ALL) but you can also pay in Euros at some places. Anyway, we recommend that you use Lekë. You can use cash everywhere and card in most places.**

**You can bring Euros with you and exchange them in Tirana Airport or in the city when when you are here. Keep in mind that you can pay your taxi ride in Euros or ALL but only cash!**

**1 Euro = 98,70 Lekë (it varies from day to day).**

**You can check the exchange rate here :**

**[https://www.bankofalbania.org/Tregjet/Kursi\\_zyrtar\\_i\\_kembimit/](https://www.bankofalbania.org/Tregjet/Kursi_zyrtar_i_kembimit/)**



# AROUND TIRANA



**Skanderbeg Square**



**Tirana National History Museum**



**Et'hem Bej Mosque**



**Pyramid of Tirana**



**Bunk'Art Museum**



**Dajti Ekspres**

# Let's Get To Know: Food



**You will find different possibilities of food, but also you will notice the Italian, Greek and Turkish cuisine influence, which you will actually find almost everywhere in Tirana.**

**If you decide to cook at home during your mobility, you will be shown all markets where you can buy fresh vegetables, meat, and everything you need.**

**Of course, you are welcome to try out some Albanian traditional food :)**

# Albanian Language

During your mobility project in Tirana you will have the chance to learn the basics of the Albanian language. It is a very unique language, since it forms a separate branch of the Indo-European Family and cannot be closely connected with any other Indo-European language.

We have prepared this mini-dictionary for you, just to get you started ;)



Hello! - **Çkemi!**

How are you? - **Si je?**

I don't speak Albanian -

**Nuk flas shqip**

Yes! - **Po!**

Please! - **Të lutem!**

No! - **Jo!**

Thank you! - **Faleminderit!**

I'm sorry! - **Më fal!**

Good morning! - **Mirëmëngjes!**

Good afternoon! - **Mirëdita!**

Good evening! - **Mirëmbërëma!**

Good night! - **Natën e mirë!**

Goodbye! - **Mirupafshim!**

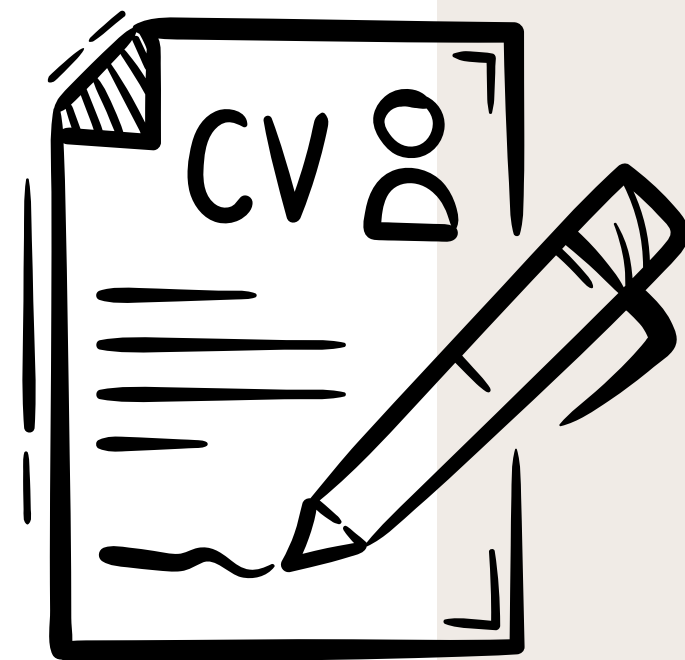
\*I love you! - **Të dua!**



# Application

**The only requirements for application are a CV and a motivation letter in English. Please send them to our coordinator via email. After this step, you will get notified for arranging an online selection interview.**

**Good luck! :)**



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**Your ESC project is not a  
touristic trip !  
You have responsibilities  
and a great opportunity to  
learn & grow. We are  
always happy to work with  
motivated participants.**

***Kind reminder :)***

# More about us:



[beyondbarriers.org](https://beyondbarriers.org)



[Beyond Barriers- Pertej Barrierave](#)



[beyondbarriersngo](#)



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**Looking forward to  
welcoming you in  
our team!**

